
Expedited License Review Process for Defense Capabilities Initiatives

State and DoD are interested in significantly expediting the license review process for NATO Allies. We believe that many of the reforms included elsewhere in this package will have such an effect. In addition, we believe that there are two areas, one short term and specific, one longer term and more general, where significant progress can be made.

Defense Capabilities Initiative (DCI). The United States government has agreed with other NATO governments that the capabilities gap between U.S. forces and those of our NATO Allies, clearly demonstrated during the conflicts in the Balkans, must be closed. The United States and other NATO governments have identified five capability areas (deployability and mobility, sustainability and logistics, effective engagement, survivability of forces and infrastructure, and consultation, command, and control) where NATO countries need to improve. In addition, during the NATO defense planning process, each NATO government has committed itself to specific force goals, many of which support implementation of the DCI.

In the past year, several allies have encountered delays and difficulties in completing the purchase of U.S. equipment to fulfill DCI objectives. This impedes DCI progress and undercuts effective U.S. government leadership within the Alliance. In order to support the efforts identified by these governments to accomplish DCI activities, the U.S. government should expedite U.S. export licenses required to permit these efforts to move forward. Given State and DoD's joint interest in facilitating the DCI, the following initiative will be announced at the May NATO ministerial to facilitate allies' access to defense articles (including technical data) and defense services to be exported or transferred in support of the NATO DCI.

Building upon the commitments made by NATO governments during the NATO force planning processes and using the Javits report, DoD will create an annual list of items that further DCI objectives. This list will be provided to State and DoD licensing officers and to NATO Allies.

In order to qualify for expedited review, exporters must submit applications to State electronically. For items on the list and subsystems that the U.S. government determines are directly associated with items on the list, the exporter will request expedited processing.

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For those requests that are on the DCI expedite list and do not require referral to DoD, State will process the request in an expedited manner, with license review expected to be completed in 10 days.

For those requests that are on the DCI expedite list and are referred to DoD, DoD will shorten its normal review process from 25 review days to 10 review days. Current DoD escalation and other timeline procedures will remain in effect.